

SOLICITATION INSTRUCTIONS AND CONDITIONS

1. DEFINITIONS.

As used herein:

- (a) The term "solicitation" means Invitation for Bids (IFB) where the procurement is advertised, and Request for Proposal (RFP) where the procurement is negotiated.
- (b) The term "offer" means bid where the procurement is advertised, and proposal where the procurement is negotiated.
- (c) For purposes of this solicitation and Block 2 of Standard Form 33, the term "advertised" includes Small Business Restricted Advertising and other types of restricted advertising.

2. PREPARATION OF OFFERS.

- (a) Offerors are expected to examine the drawings, specifications, Schedule, and all instructions. Failure to do so will be at the offeror's risk.
- (b) Each offeror shall furnish the information required by the solicitation. The offeror shall sign the solicitation and print or type his name on the Schedule and each Continuation Sheet thereof on which he makes an entry. Erasures or other changes must be initialed by the person signing the offer. Offers signed by an agent are to be accompanied by evidence of his authority unless such evidence has been previously furnished to the issuing office.
- (c) Unit price for each unit offered shall be shown and such price shall include packing unless otherwise specified. A total shall be entered in the Amount column of the Schedule for each item offered. In case of discrepancy between a unit price and extended price, the unit price will be presumed to be correct, subject, however, to correction to the same extent and in the same manner as any other mistake.
- (d) Offers for supplies or services other than those specified will not be considered unless authorized by the solicitation.
- (e) Offeror must state a definite time for delivery of supplies or for performance of services unless otherwise specified in the solicitation.
- (f) Time, if stated as a number of days, will include Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.
- (g) Code boxes are for Government use only.

3. EXPLANATION TO OFFERORS. Any explanation desired by an offeror regarding the meaning or interpretation of the solicitation, drawings, specifications, etc., must be requested in writing and with sufficient time allowed for a reply to reach offerors before the submission of their offers. Oral explanations or instructions given before the award of the contract will not be binding. Any information given to a prospective offeror concerning a solicitation will be furnished to all prospective offerors as an amendment of the solicitation, if such information is necessary to offerors in submitting offers on the solicitation or if the lack of such information would be prejudicial to uninformed offerors.

4. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF AMENDMENTS TO SOLICITATIONS. Receipt of an amendment to a solicitation by an offeror must be acknowledged (a) by signing and returning the amendment, (b) on the reverse of Standard Form 33, or (c) by letter or telegram. Such acknowledgment must be received prior to the hour and date specified for receipt of offers.

5. SUBMISSION OF OFFERS.

- (a) Offers and modifications thereof shall be enclosed in sealed envelopes and addressed to the office specified in the solicitation. The offeror shall show the hour and date specified in the solicitation for receipt, the solicitation number, and the name and address of the offeror on the face of the envelope.
- (b) Telegraphic offers will not be considered unless authorized by the solicitation; however, offers may be modified by telegraphic notice, provided such notice is received prior to the hour and date specified for receipt. (However, see par. 8.)
- (c) Samples of items, when required, must be submitted within the time specified, and unless otherwise specified by the Government, at no expense to the Government. If not destroyed by testing, samples will be returned at offeror's request and expense, unless otherwise specified by the solicitation.

6. FAILURE TO SUBMIT OFFER. If no offer is to be submitted, do not return the solicitation unless otherwise specified. A letter or postcard should be sent to the issuing office advising whether future solicitations for the type of supplies or services covered by this solicitation are desired. Failure of the recipient to offer, or to notify the issuing office that future solicitations are desired, may result in removal of the name of such recipient from the mailing list for the type of supplies or services covered by the solicitation.

7. MODIFICATION OR WITHDRAWAL OF OFFERS.

- (a) If this solicitation is advertised, offers may be modified or withdrawn by written or telegraphic notice received prior to the exact hour and date specified for receipt of offers. An offer also may be withdrawn in person by an offeror or his authorized representative, provided his identity is made known and he signs a receipt for the offer, but only if the withdrawal is made prior to the exact hour and date set for receipt of offers. (However, see par. 8.)
- (b) If this solicitation is negotiated, offers may be modified (subject to par. 8, when applicable) or withdrawn by written or telegraphic notice received at any time prior to award. Offers may be withdrawn in person by an offeror or his authorized representative, provided his identity is made known and he signs a receipt for the offer prior to award.

8. LATE OFFERS AND MODIFICATIONS OR WITHDRAWALS. (This paragraph applies to all advertised solicitations. In the case of Department of Defense negotiated solicitations, it shall also apply to late offers and modifications (other than the normal revisions of offers by selected offerors during the usual conduct of negotiations with such offerors) but not to withdrawals of offers. Unless otherwise provided, this paragraph does not apply to negotiated solicitations issued by civilian agencies.)

- (a) Offers and modifications of offers (or withdrawals thereof, if this solicitation is advertised) received at the office designated in the solicitation after the exact hour and date specified for receipt will not be considered unless: (1) they are received before award is made; and either (2) they are sent by registered mail, or by certified mail for which an official dated post office stamp (postmark) on the original Receipt for Certified Mail has been obtained and it is determined by the Government that the late receipt was due solely to delay in the mails for which the offeror was not responsible; or (3) if submitted by mail (or by telegram if authorized) it is determined by the Government that the late receipt was due solely to mishandling by the Government after receipt at the Government installation; provided, that timely receipt at such installation is established upon examination of an appropriate date or time stamp (if any) of such installation, or of other documentary evidence of receipt (if readily available) within the control of such installation or of the post office serving it. However, a modification of an offer which makes the terms of an otherwise successful offer more favorable to the Government will be considered at any time it is received and may thereafter be accepted.
- (b) Offerors using certified mail are cautioned to obtain a Receipt for Certified Mail showing a legible, dated postmark and to retain such receipt against the chance that it will be required as evidence that a late offer was timely mailed.
- (c) The time of mailing of late offers submitted by registered or certified mail shall be deemed to be the last minute of the date shown in the postmark on the registered mail receipt or registered mail wrapper or on the Receipt for Certified Mail unless the offeror furnishes evidence from the post office station of mailing which establishes an earlier time. In the case of certified mail, the only acceptable evidence is as follows: (1) where the Receipt for Certified Mail identifies the post office station of mailing, evidence furnished by the offeror which establishes that the business day of that station ended at an earlier time, in which case the time of mailing shall be deemed to be the last minute of the business day of that station; or (2) an entry in ink on the Receipt for Certified Mail showing the time of mailing and the initials of the postal employee receiving the item and making the entry, with appropriate written verification of such entry from the post office station of mailing, in which case the time of mailing shall be the time shown in the entry. If the postmark on the original Receipt for Certified Mail does not show a date, the offer shall not be considered.

9. DISCOUNTS. (a) Notwithstanding the fact that a blank is provided for a ten (10) day discount, prompt payment discounts offered for payment within less than twenty (20) calendar days will not be considered in evaluating offers for award, unless otherwise specified in the solicitation. However, offered discounts of less than 20 days will be taken if payment is made within the discount period, even though not considered in the evaluation of offers.

- (b) In connection with any discount offered, time will be computed from date of delivery of the supplies to carrier when delivery and acceptance are at point of origin, or from date of delivery and acceptance when delivery and acceptance are at point of destination.

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19. **ORDER OF PRECEDENCE.** In the event of an inconsistency between provisions of this solicitation, the inconsistency shall be resolved by giving precedence in the following order: (a) the Schedule; (b) Solicitation Instructions and Conditions; (c) General Provisions; (d) other provisions of the contract, whether incorporated by reference or otherwise; and (e) the specifications.

18. **CERTIFICATION OF INDEPENDENT PRICE DETERMINATION.** (a) This certification on the offer form is not applicable to a foreign offer or submitting an offer for a contract which requires performance or delivery outside the United States, its possessions, and Puerto Rico. (b) An offer will not be considered for award where (a)(1), (a)(3), or (b) of the certification has been deleted or modified. Where (a)(1) or (2) of the certification is not considered for award, the offer will not be considered for award unless the offeror furnishes with the offer a signed statement which sets forth in detail the circumstances of the disclosure and the head of the agency, or his designee, determines that such disclosure was not made for the purpose of restricting competition.

17. **EMPLOYER'S IDENTIFICATION NUMBER.** (Applicable only to advertised solicitations.) The offeror shall insert in the applicable space on the offer form, if he has no parent company, his own Employer's Identification Number (E.I. No.) (Federal Social Security Number used on Employer's Quarterly Federal Tax Return, U.S. Treasury Department Form 941), or, if he has a parent company, the Employer's Identification Number of his parent company.

16. **PARENT COMPANY.** A parent company for the purpose of this offer is a company which either owns or controls the activities and basic business policies of the offeror. To own another company means the parent company must own at least a majority (more than 50 percent) of the voting rights in that company. To control another company, such ownership is not required; if another company is able to formulate, determine, or veto basic business policy decisions of the offeror, such other company is considered the parent company of the offeror. This control may be exercised through the use of dominant minority voting rights, use of proxy voting, contractual arrangements, or otherwise.

15. **CONTINGENT FEE.** If the offeror, by checking the appropriate box provided therefor, has represented that he has employed or retained a company or person (other than a full-time bona fide employee working solely for the offeror) to solicit or secure this contract, or that he has paid or agreed to pay any fee, commission, percentage, or brokerage fee to any company or person contingent upon or resulting from the award of this contract, he shall furnish, in duplicate, a complete Standard Form 119, Contractor's Statement of Contingent or Other Fees. If the offeror has previously furnished a completed Standard Form 119 to the office issuing this solicitation, he may accompany his offer with a signed statement (a) indicating when such completed form was previously furnished, (b) identifying by number the previous solicitation or contract, if any, in connection with which such form was submitted, and (c) representing that the statement in such form is applicable to this offer.

14. **SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.** A small business concern for the purpose of Government procurement is a concern, including its affiliate, which is independently owned and operated, is not dominant in the field of operation in which it is submitting offers on Government contracts, and can further qualify under the criteria concerning number of employees, average annual receipts, or other criteria, as prescribed by the Small Business Administration. (See Code of Federal Regulations, Title 13, Part 121, as amended, which contains detailed industry definitions and related procedures.)

13. **SELLER'S INVOICES.** Invoices shall be prepared and submitted in quadruplicate (one copy shall be marked "original") unless otherwise specified. Invoices shall contain the following information: Contract and order number (if any), item numbers, description of supplies or services, sizes, quantities, unit prices, and the date of mailing of the Government check.

12. **LABOR INFORMATION.** General information regarding the requirements of the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act (41 U.S.C. 35-45), the Contract Work Hours Standards Act (40 U.S.C. 327-330), and the Service Contract Act of 1965 (41 U.S.C. 351-357) may be obtained from the Department of Labor, Washington, D.C. 20210, or from any regional office of that agency. Requests for information should include the solicitation number, the name and address of the issuing agency, and a description of the supplies or services.

11. **GOVERNMENT-FURNISHED PROPERTY.** No material, labor, or facilities will be furnished by the Government unless otherwise provided for in the solicitation.

10. **AWARD OF CONTRACT.** (a) The contract will be awarded to that responsible offeror whose offer conforming to the solicitation will be most advantageous to the Government, price and other factors considered.

(b) The Government reserves the right to reject any or all offers and to waive informalities and minor irregularities in offers received.

(c) The Government may accept any item or group of items of any offer, unless the offer qualifies his offer by specific limitations. UNLESS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THE SCHEDULE, OFFERS MAY BE SUBMITTED FOR ANY QUANTITIES LESS THAN THOSE SPECIFIED, AND THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE AN AWARD ON ANY ITEM FOR A QUANTITY LESS THAN THE QUANTITY OFFERED AT THE UNIT PRICES OFFERED UNLESS THE OFFEROR SPECIFIES OTHER-

WISE IN HIS OFFER.

(d) A written award (or Acceptance of Offer) mailed (or otherwise furnished) to the successful offeror within the time for acceptance specified in the offer shall be deemed to result in a binding contract without further action by either party.

The following paragraphs (e) through (h) apply only to negotiated solicitations:

(e) The Government may accept within the time specified therein, any offer (or part thereof, as provided in (c) above), whether or not there are negotiations subsequent to its receipt, unless the offer is withdrawn by written notice received by the Government prior to award. If subsequent negotiations are conducted, they shall not constitute a rejection or counter offer on the part of the Government.

(f) The right is reserved to accept other than the lowest offer and to reject any or all offers.

(g) The Government may award a contract, based on initial offers received, without discussion of such offers. Accordingly, each initial offer should be submitted on the most favorable terms from a price and technical standpoint which the offeror can submit to the Government.

(h) Any financial data submitted with any offer hereunder or any representation concerning facilities or financing will not form a part of any resulting contract; provided, however, that if the resulting contract contains a clause providing for price reduction for defective cost or pricing data, the contract price will be subject to reduction if cost or pricing data furnished hereunder is incomplete, inaccurate, or not current.

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